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*I Sogni e il Sonno nell' isterismo e nella epilessia.* DOTT. SANTE DE SANCTIS, Aiuto alla clinica psichiatrica di Roma. Roma, 1896. pp. 217, sm. 80.

The author of this little volume is assistant in the Psychiatric Clinic at Rome, and his motto is found on the last page "First the facts—theories and hypothesis come afterwards." The work consists of an Introduction (pp. 5-46), treating of dreams and mysticism, methods of dream-study,—the author promises himself a book on the dreams of animals, infants, idiots, insane; the semeiological value of dreaming, questions and problems; Part I (pp. 47-114) on Hysterism, with notes of 24 observations, more or less detailed; Part II (pp. 115-160) on Epilepsy, with notes of observation 25-50; Part III (pp. 161-216) Conclusions. The book is remarkably well provided with bibliographical references in the form of foot-notes, from Aristotle and the Bible to Havelock Ellis's *Man and Woman*. In his general conclusions the author gives the results of investigations of 53 cases of grave hysterism, 45 cases of light hysterism, 45 cases of epilepsy of classic sort and 25 old epileptics. Dr. Sante de Sanctis considers that his experiments and observations prove that in hysterism and epilepsy there exists a specific nocturnal syndrome, and in hysterism an oniric stigma.

A. F. C.

*The Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory, 1900.* Edited by E. JANES. London, A. & C. Black; New York, The Macmillan Co., 1900. pp. xxvi., 340.

*Who's Who, 1900.* London, A. & C. Black; New York, The Macmillan Co., 1900. pp. xviii, 1092.

These are useful and well-made books, containing a mass of information in compendious and reliable form. The psychologist will be most directly interested in the scientific publications and university privileges of English women, as set forth in the first volume, and in the small part played by psychology in the second. There is, apparently, no chair of psychology in the English universities (p. 106), and Professor Dewey seems to be the only American psychologist to obtain mention.

*Le Système Nerveux Central. Structure et Fonctions Histoire Critique des Théories et des Doctrines.* JULES SOURY, Paris, 1899. pp. 1863, 27 Figs. in text.

This has the appearance of a monumental work of reference for the history and development of neurology. Hitherto, the student has been compelled to ransack original sources in all manner of ancient and modern languages, many of them difficult or impossible of access, or pick up stray neurological crumbs from various histories of medicine. Now we have it all sifted out in plain French, and with test passages from the Greek, Latin and other original languages, conveniently carried along by means of parentheses in the text.

The scope of the work is indicated by the index of authors where we find that the contributions of about 1900 workers, from Alcmeon of Cotona, 500 years B. C., who discovered the optic nerves and developed the idea of the sensory functions of the brain, often called the first animal anatomist, down to Golgi, His, Flechsig and Cajal, are passed in review. It is further shown, and the two ponderous volumes are made usable, by a complete analytical table arranged by authors and topics of over 70 pages of fine print. Especially full reference is made to ancient and classical writers. For example, Aristotle's views on neurology are given 130 page references, and we are especially indebted to the writer for making Galen available, so far as his works are pre-

served to us. The section on antiquity covers about 330 pages and brings the subject down to and through Galen. Treatment of neurological developments during the middle ages "Moven Age" occupies but 30 pages. Modern Neurology, "Temps Modernes" is considered to begin with Varolius, Vasalius, Silvius, and others of the sixteenth century, and occupies over 300 pages. Contemporary neurology covers the remaining 1,000 pages. The weak feature of the book is paucity of diagram and illustration which make it compare somewhat unfavorably with modern compendia of neurology, but the book really stands in a class by itself.

C. F. HODGE.

*A study of the Neurone Theory.* By M. F. FISCHER. Journ. of Exp. Med., IV, Nos. 5-6, 1899. pp. 535-540; Plates XXIII and XXIV.

By means of golgi and methylene blue preparations of cortex, basal ganglia and spinal cord in the white rat, and of human spinal cord, the author has demonstrated bridge-like connections between neighboring cells in a fairly large number of cases. The methylene blue specimens enable one to follow the course of the connecting band of protoplasm without danger of being deceived by an artifact.

*Regeneration of Nerve Fibres in the Central Nervous System.* By W. L. WORCESTER. Journ. of Exp. Med., III, No. 6, 1898. pp. 579-584; Plates LII.

*Regeneration of the Dorsal Root Fibres of the Second Cervical Nerve within the Spinal Cord.* By W. S. BAER, P. M. DAWSON, and H. T. MARSHALL. Journ. of Exp. Med. IV, No. 1, 1899. pp. 29-46.

Description of the finding of a few isolated fibres within the central nervous system, the origin of which by regeneration can be definitely relied upon.

*Le così delle degenerazioni retrograde del midollo spinale in rapporto al ristabilirsi funzionale nel dominio dei nervi lesi.* C. CENI. Rivista sper. di freniatria, XXV, 1899. pp. 353-365.

Marchi specimens of the spinal cord in dogs in which the sciatic nerve had previously been cut showed degeneration in the cord only in those cases in which there was failure of recovery of function.

*On the Destination of the Descending Antero-Lateral Tract in the Spinal Cord.* E. A. SCHAFER. Proc. of the Physiol. Soc., May 12, 1899, in the Journ. of Physiol., Vol. XXIV, p. xxxii.

Prof. Schäfer has previously shown fibres of the pyramidal tract ending around and near the cells of Clarke's column. The present communication describes fibres of the descending antero-lateral tract in the monkey ending around the large cells of the anterior horn.

*Zur Kenntniss der sensiblen Leitungsbahnen im Rückenmark.* LANGENDORFF. Pflüger's Arch., Vol. LXXI, 1898. pp. 401-411.

A series of experiments to show that touch and pain fibres do not pass up directly through the dorsal columns but have cell connections in the immediately related gray matter. In the anæsthetized animal touching any part of the body produces a rise in blood pressure. If, however, the dorsal aorta be ligated, thus destroying the gray matter of the cord below the obstruction no such reflex is obtained from the hinder part of the animal, though the rise of blood pressure occurs exactly as before if the nasal mucous membrane be irritated. The posterior part of the animal is also insensible to pain.

The injection of strychnine causes convulsions of reflex origin. These immediately cease behind the obstruction if the aorta be ligated,